

REMARKS

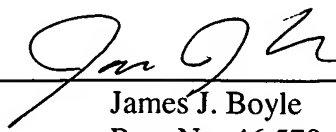
Claims 1 through 20 were previously allowed in a Notice of Allowance dated November 4, 2004. By this amendment, filed concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination, Claim 6 has been canceled and Claims 7-10 have been amended.

Among other reasons, Applicants have timely filed this Request for Continued Examination in order for the Examiner to consider the effect, if any, of U.S. Patent No. 6,847,347 B1 issuing from the parent application (U.S. Application No. 09/643,670) to this application. Applicants also note that the Form PTO 1449 returned to Applicants on November 4, 2004, did not include the Examiner's initials next to four (4) non-patent literature documents that were previously cited in the June 14, 2004 Information Disclosure Statement in this application. To that end, and concurrently with the Request for Continued Examiner and this amendment, Applicants have filed an Information Disclosure Statement citing, among other references, U.S. Patent No. 6,847,347 B1 and the four non-patent literature documents mentioned above.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this amendment and charge any additional required fees to deposit account 24-0037.

Respectfully submitted,

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